

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

State funding for towns and schools impacts your property taxes. That’s why I fought hard to protect funding for **Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison and North Branford**. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our senate district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.



Listening to Branford First Selectman Anthony “Unk” DaRos talk about the needs of our towns and the importance of our efforts to protect funding for municipalities.

	Fiscal Year 10-11
Total Education Grants	\$21,224,277
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$930,644
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$183,680
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$620,909
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$892,480
Total State Funds to the 12th Senate District	\$23,851,989

Protecting the State’s Credit in Tough Times

The global recession caused state revenues to plummet and even jeopardized Connecticut’s credit rating. Bond-rating agencies warned that unless the state acted decisively, our ability to borrow for important projects at an affordable rate could be affected. We took aggressive action to de-authorize or reduce \$422 million in previously approved projects this year—bringing us safely under the bonding cap while preserving credit and helping to control future debt. At the same time, I was able to protect state funds for a few community investments, including renovations to the **Connecticut Hospice in Branford**, preservation of the **East River Preserve in Guilford** and expanding the **Scranton Memorial Library in Madison**.

A Greener Economy

Connecticut can help pull itself out of these economic doldrums with the creation of good paying, high-tech jobs like those found in ‘green’ industries. There is perhaps no better example of this than **Greenleaf Biofuels** headquartered in **Guilford**, with a new production facility in New Haven. This session I spearheaded efforts to increase the amount of biofuel

that will be mixed with diesel fuel and sold in the state over the next 10 years. These biodiesel blends are cleaner, promote our local economy, and break our dependence on foreign and offshore oil.



With Gus Kellogg (left) and Charlie Beebe (right) of Greenleaf Biofuels.



Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message.

This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass an historic bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid and reduced borrowing. However, much remains to be done.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,

Ed Meyer
State Senator

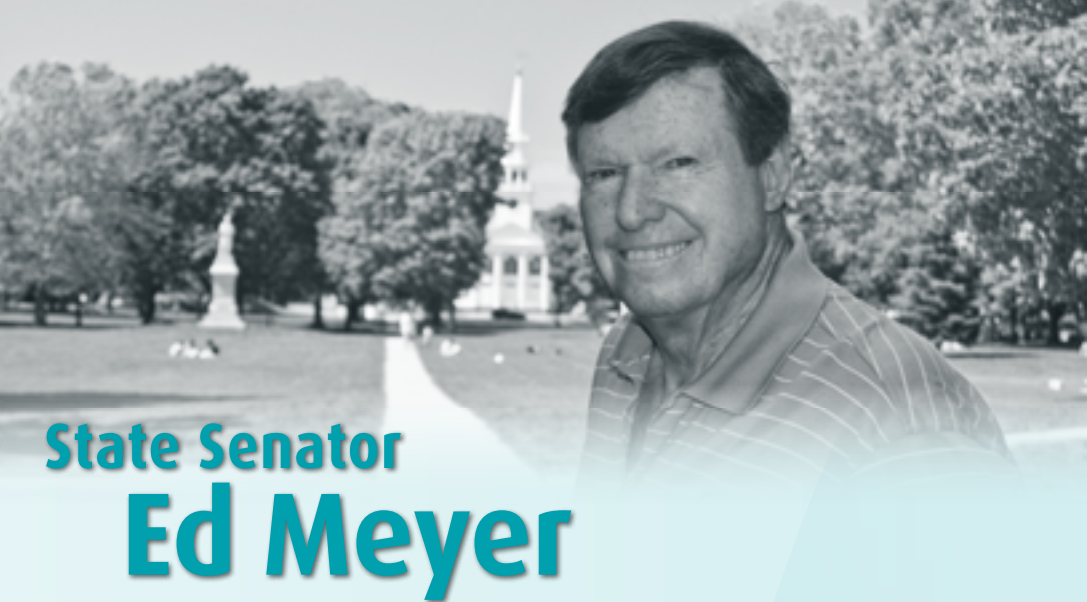
Stay Informed in a “Green” Way

Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It’s a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit:
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State Senator
Ed Meyer

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I’m proud to represent the citizens of:
Branford,
Durham,
Guilford,
Killingworth,
Madison &
North Branford

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STATE
SENATOR **Ed Meyer**

Serving Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison & North Branford

SUMMER 2010

NEW LAWS

Helping Connecticut Schools Race to the Top

The Obama Administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms Connecticut will have a better shot at securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap, ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy and relieving local property taxes.



Reading to fourth-graders at Calvin Leete Elementary School in Guilford as part of March Reading Day.

Cracking Down on Distracted Driving



A new law has the potential to make your commute a lot safer. Police will be cracking down on distracted driving under changes to the state's cell phone law that take effect on October 1. The law, which does not impact drivers who go hands-free, will send 25 percent of all fees collected for citations on cell phone users and texters back to the municipality that issues the ticket, giving local police a greater incentive to crack down on this dangerous behavior.

The Great Outdoors—On a Budget

If you enjoy the great outdoors, you'll be happy to learn that I sponsored legislation which reduced recent increases in hunting, fishing, camping and park entrance fees. An example of the savings for Connecticut residents: a

nd at Hammonasset State Park y about \$7. We also approved .es next year for those who purchased certain licenses before the price cut was enacted.



GROWING JOBS

Landmark Jobs Bill

My top priority this legislative session was helping create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Some economists call our landmark bipartisan jobs bill the most important jobs initiative that the General Assembly has ever considered. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans and lines of credit for small businesses to help fund expansions or new equipment
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- ▶ Pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses



With students at Gateway Community College discussing future job training programs at community colleges.

This law is an example of what can happen when business leaders, academics and small-business owners from across the state come together with one common goal: help Connecticut grow jobs.

Helping Small Businesses in Tough Times

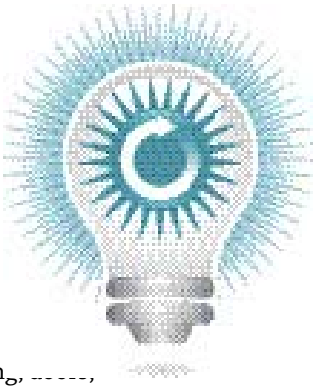
Small business is the engine that drives Connecticut's economy. With that in mind, we retroactively extended tax exemptions to business owners in targeted investment communities and enterprise zones that have purchased machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology or recycling. I'm happy to announce that businesses located in New Haven qualify for this tax exemption.

Microbusinesses = Big Impact



Microbusinesses—defined as those with gross annual revenues of \$3 million or less—may be small, but they have the potential to play a large role in Connecticut's economic recovery. A new bill requires the state Department of Public Works to consider microbusinesses when pre-qualifying consultants for work on state projects, to set aside contracts or portions of contracts for microenterprises, and to open state revolving loan funds to these very small businesses.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



ENERGY SAVINGS

- ▶ **Save on Your Electric Bill**
Choose Your Electric Supplier—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. 1-888-922-3782 or www.ctenergyinfo.com
- ▶ **State Sales Tax Exemptions**
Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including: insulation, caulking, fluorescent light bulbs, furnaces, geothermal heat pumps, programmable thermostats, water heaters and windows.

FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms.



CONSUMER PROTECTION

The state Department of Consumer Protection works to ensure fair and equitable practices in Connecticut's marketplaces. **1-800-342-2649**

- ▶ **Making the "Do Not Call" List Stronger**
Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed this year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.

Additional Resources and Links

Follow links to these special pages from www.senatedems.ct.gov:

- ▶ **Resources for Jobseekers**
- ▶ **Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures**
- ▶ **Veterans' Guide**
- ▶ **Health Care Programs in Connecticut**
- ▶ **A Guide to the State Budget**